

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 789 – HB 1370

March 30, 2017

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Creates the *Surgical Assistance Practice Act*. Authorizes a licensed surgical assistant to engage in the practice of surgical assisting. Requires an applicant, to be eligible for licensure as a licensed surgical assistant; to be certified as a surgical assistant by an approved certifying body; have successfully completed an approved surgical assistant education program; have passed a nationally recognized surgical assistant examination adopted by the board; and have a high school diploma or the equivalent as determined by the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME). Establishes the effective date of January 1, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Revenue - \$36,200/Board of Medical Examiners

Increase State Expenditures – Less than \$36,200/Board of Medical Examiners

Other Fiscal Impact – The Board of Medical Examiners had an annual surplus of \$359,446 in FY14-15, an annual surplus of \$382,952 in FY15-16, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$3,041,785 on June 30, 2016.

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006329):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Declares that no person is to use or assume the title “registered surgical assistant” unless such person is registered with the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME) as a registered surgical assistant. Requires the BOME to register any applicant as a registered surgical assistant who presents satisfactory evidence that the applicant meets certain criteria. Authorizes the BOME to deny, restrict, condition, revoke, or otherwise discipline the registration of a surgical assistant for violation of this section, violation of any rules promulgated pursuant to this section, or any basis provided in Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-214.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Revenue - \$9,000/Board of Medical Examiners

Increase State Expenditures – Less than \$9,000/Board of Medical Examiners

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**Other Fiscal Impact - The Board of Medical Examiners had an annual surplus of \$359,446 in FY14-15, an annual surplus of \$382,952 in FY15-16, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$3,041,785 on June 30, 2016.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Health (DOH), the proposed legislation creates a new registration category for surgical assistance.
- According to the American Board of Surgical Assistants, there are approximately 115 certified surgical assistants with a Tennessee mailing address.
- Assuming an annual registration fee of \$75, the recurring increase in state revenue is estimated to be \$8,625 (115 x \$75).
- The recurring increase in state expenditures to the BOME is estimated to be less than \$8,625.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The BOME had an annual surplus of \$359,446 in FY14-15, an annual surplus of \$382,952 in FY15-16, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$3,041,785 on June 30, 2016.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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